

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. An apparatus comprising:
2 a non-volatile storage device;
3 an application program; and
4 a printer driver configured to
5 retrieve configuration data from a printing device, and
6 cause the configuration data to be stored on the non-volatile storage device.
- 1 2. The apparatus recited in Claim 1, wherein the application program is configured to
2 use the configuration data to facilitate printing of an electronic document.
- 1 3. The apparatus recited in Claim 1, wherein the application program is configured to
2 use the configuration data to generate one or more graphical user interface objects that
3 are displayed on a graphical user interface in association with the printing of an
4 electronic document.
- 1 4. The apparatus recited in Claim 1, wherein:
2 configuration data includes bitmap data for the printing device, and
3 the application program is configured to cause the bitmap data to be displayed on a
4 graphical user interface in association with the printing of an electronic
5 document.

1 5. The apparatus recited in Claim 1, wherein the printer driver is further configured to
2 cause a graphical user interface object to be displayed on a graphical user interface,
3 wherein the graphical user interface object includes a link with a URL associated with
4 bitmap data included in the configuration data stored on the printing device.

1 6. The apparatus recited in Claim 5, wherein the printer driver is further configured to in
2 response to detecting a user selection of the link, retrieve the bitmap data from the
3 printing device and cause the bitmap data to be displayed on the graphical user
4 interface.

1 7. The apparatus recited in Claim 1, wherein the configuration data indicates one or
2 more options installed on the printing device.

1 8. The apparatus recited in Claim 1, wherein the configuration data indicates one or
2 more source trays available on the printing device.

1 9. The apparatus recited in Claim 1, wherein the configuration data indicates one or
2 more media types available on the printing device.

1 10. The apparatus recited in Claim 1, wherein the configuration data indicates one or
2 more commands supported by the printing device.

1 11. The apparatus recited in Claim 1, wherein the configuration data includes program
2 logic used by the printer driver.

1 12. The apparatus recited in Claim 1, wherein:
2 the configuration data includes first version identification data that indicates a version
3 of the configuration data retrieved by the printer driver, and
4 the printer driver is further configured to:
5 retrieve second version identification data from the printing device, wherein
6 the second version identification data indicates a version of the
7 configuration data maintained on the printing device,
8 compare the first version identification data to the second version
9 identification data, and
10 if the comparison of the first version identification data to the second version
11 identification data indicates that the version of configuration data
12 maintained on the printing device is more recent than the version of
13 configuration data retrieved by the printer driver, then the printer
14 driver retrieving the more recent version of the configuration data from
15 the printing device.

1 13. The apparatus recited in Claim 1, wherein the printer driver is configured to retrieve
2 the configuration data from the printing device in response to an indication that the
3 printer driver is no fully compatible with the printing device.

1 14. The apparatus recited in Claim 1, wherein the printer driver is further configured to:
2 retrieve second configuration data from a second printing device, and
3 cause the second configuration data to be stored on the non-volatile storage device.